

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 09619 241829Z
ACTION NODS-00

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-----011095 241832Z /47
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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4422

S E C R E T AMMAN 9619

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PGOV,JO, EG, IS, XF
SUBJECT: HUSSEIN AND THE SADAT-BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 306913

1. I SAW KING EARLY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 24 AND SENT OVER WITH HIM YOUR MESSAGE REFTEL.
2. BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION I TOLD HIM THAT WE TOO WERE INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT ON JORDAN'S ROLE. OBVIOUSLY THE TALKS BETWEEN SADAT AND BEGIN'S WOULD HAVE A VERY GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS PROCESS. I ALSO TOLD HIM ABOUT OUR APPRECIATION FOR HIS CONTINUING ROLE IN THE REGION.
3. I THEN SAID I WANTED HIM TO HAVE OUR OWN THOUGHTS DIRECTLY AND READ TO HIM PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF REFTEL.
4. OBVIOUSLY HE HAD BEEN THINKING MUCH ALONG THE SAME LINES HIMSELF. HE NOTED HE WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH US AS SADAT'S EFFORTS PROCEED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 09619 241829Z

5. HE THEN TOLD ME HE HAD JUST FINISHED A MEETING WITH HIS SENIOR ADVISORS. THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT OF THE SADAT-BEGIN MEETINGS. THESE HAD TURNED TO THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE AREA OF SADAT'S FAILURE. HUSSEIN, WITHOUT QUANTIFYING THE RESULTS, TOLD ME HE WAS OBVIOUSLY GREATLY DISTRESSED AT THIS PROSPECT.

6. TO COUNTERBALANCE THE OBVIOUS WAVE OF DISMAY WHICH SEEMED TO BE CREEPING OVER HUSSEIN AND THE CONVERSATION, I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE CLEARLY LOOKING TO TOMORROW AND INDEED THE WEEKS AHEAD IN TERMS OF BEING THE BEGINNING OF THE BEGINNING OF A REAL NEGOTIATION. WE HOPED HE WOULD LOOK AT IT THE SAME WAY AND NOT SET ARTIFICIAL OR IMPRACTICAL DEADLINES OR EXPECTATIONS FOR FAILURE OR SUCCESS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT COMPLETELY BUT DID NOT THINK THAT THE ARAB WORLD WOULD ALLOW SADAT AND BEGIN TOO MUCH ADDITIONAL TIME. HE IS CLEARLY STILL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE REPORT CARRIED IN AMMAN 9575 ABOUT SADAT'S "ALL OR NOTHING" APPROACH--TO SUCCEED OR TO FAIL AND RESIGN.

7. I ALSO TOLD HUSSEIN THAT IT WAS CLEAR FROM YOUR MESSAGE THAT WE WERE IN CONTINUING TOUCH WITH BEGIN ABOUT THE MEETING. I ALSO TOLD HIM IT WAS MY IMPRESSION FROM THE REPORTING WHICH WE HAD SEEN THAT BEGIN'S SENIOR ADVISOR, INCLUDING DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN, WHO HAD JUST TALKED TO SADAT, WERE ALSO IMPRESSED WITH THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY AND A SERIOUS APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM.

8. WE HOPE TO CONTRIBUTE SOME IDEAS SHORTLY ON SOME
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 09619 241829Z

OF THE BASIC ASSUMPTIONS AND QUESTIONS WHICH WILL GOVERN KING'S ATTITUDE ON HIS FUTURE ROLE WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE TELEGRAMS.

9. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO CAIRO FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS AND ROY ATHERTON, AND TO TEL AVIV AND DAMASCUS.

PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 12/24/77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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